



medical students worldwide



Annual Report 2002-2003

ifmsa

international federation of medical students' associations



The International Federation of Medical Students' Associations is an independent, non-political federation of 92 national associations of medical students, as of the General Assembly in 2003. It was founded in 1951 as a result of the post-war wave of friendship spirit among international students. The IFMSA affiliated to the United Nations system and has since 1969 been recognised by the World Health Organization as the official international forum for international medical students.



IFMSA Mission Statement

“Our mission is to offer future physicians a comprehensive introduction to global health issues. Through our programming and opportunities, we develop culturally sensitive students of medicine, intent on influencing the transnational inequalities that shape the health of our planet.”

From the Editor

in memoriam

This annual report is dedicated to the inspiring life and vision of Marta Tereza Dominguez de la Torre (Spain) and to Gemma Rosell (Catalonia, Spain) who lost their lives as a result of the fatal car accident on December 13th 2003 in Bari, Italy. The officials' team of the IFMSA, as well as the entire IFMSA community join together to express heartfelt condolences and sympathy to the families and friends of those who perished and to honor their loved ones.



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The International Federation of Medical Students' Associations

Annual Report 2002-03

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The International Federation of Medical Students' Associations

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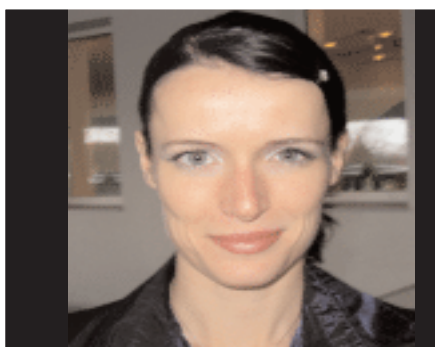
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**Working Together for a Healthier Tomorrow,
Teddy Bear Hospital Project, Rostock, Germany**

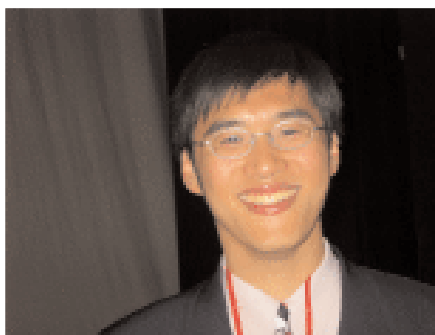
New Century - New ideas



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Ms Jana Myndiukova (Slovakia),
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The academic year 2002-2003 has been a year of growth and structural redevelopment for the IFMSA. We are the largest student organisation in the world, with an ever-growing number of new members with new medical student organisations joining every year.

Due to the rapid growth of the IFMSA, one of the major priorities for the year was a revision of our structure and personnel required. This with the development of initiatives started by our predecessors, as well as initiating our own initiatives has led to a change in the focus and the image of the IFMSA

Health Related Projects

IFMSA is the only global network of local, national and international health-related projects arranged by medical students. In 2003, we have several thousand local, several hundred national, and more than 50 international projects to improve health all over the world.

A priority of this year has been to solidify the support to and the promotion of our national and international projects. Time and emphasis has been given to our Projects' Support Division, which is our main tool for the co-ordination of and support for our projects. For interested parties, we have established the IFMSA projects' database at www.ifmsa.org/projects.



The Outset of a New Epoch

Training & Resources Development for Member Organisations

An essential role of the IFMSA is to be a resource for its members concerning management, leadership and teamwork, so that local and national projects can continue smoothly. The result has been the phenomenal development of the Training and Resources Development Support Division this year, which has led to a significant improvement of the leadership, and teamwork training we offer to our members to a very high level. Our members now have access to skilled external trainers and graded training programs, custom-made to fit different levels of experience. An important focus in the training field this year has also been the organizing of training and resources development workshops, and we are happy to report that several successful international, regional and sub-regional training events have been arranged throughout the year.

Regionalisation

Due to rapid expansion of national member

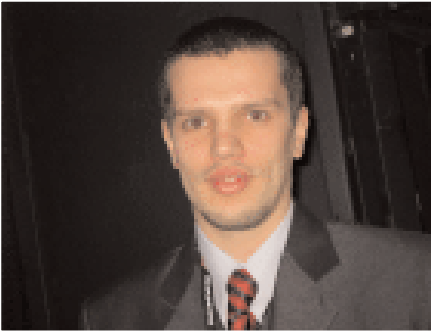
organisations in the IFMSA, the 2002-2003 Officials' team has been working towards remodelling the infrastructure for support and communication with our member organisations. We have divided the world into five geographical regions, and established leadership and co-ordination within each region thereby stimulating regional co-operation and common external representation for each region. Regionalisation has already resulted in regional meetings and the establishment of regional projects as well as plans for future co-operation. National members have become more involved when they have a regional and hence common forum to work in. Finally, regionalisation has led to a closer and more direct co-operation with our regional partners.

Internal Communication

Internal communication is key to the smooth running of any organisation and the IFMSA is no different. To ensure that we work effectively with our members and external partners, we have to ensure that we work effectively with one another. As a result, streamlining internal communication has been a priority for this year. As an international organisation, internet communication is vital to our continuing work. Thus measures to optimise our communication in the different electronic fora have ensured that we are utilising the latest technological advancements to the benefit of our members. There has also been development of our communication with our members, with the advent of eVAGUS, a monthly electronic newsletter that keeps our thousands of members informed as to the latest developments within the IFMSA and of the Officials.

External Communication

During 2002-2003, our team of Officials has worked to streamline external communication by the IFMSA. Increasing awareness of the IFMSA was aimed through a centralised marketing campaign that encouraged promotion of the activities and shifting the focus away from our own structure. Databases and general promotion material have been revised and remodelled to better represent the IFMSA. Groundwork for increasing income from grants and sponsorships in the future years has been initiated by creating the necessary tools for an efficient and coordinated fundraising and involving the entire team of officials to contribute. As such a new fundraising database has been created and the creation of promotional materials to be used by all Officials.



Mr Ciprian Dospinescu (Romania),
IFMSA Vice President for External Affairs
 vpe@ifmsa.org

IFMSA Official Status with the United Nations

Important steps have been achieved in the improvement of IFMSA's status within the United Nations system during 2002-2003. Our organisation has been granted Special Consultative Status with the United Nations Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC). We have also been granted operational relations with the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation (UNESCO), and the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR). For more information about IFMSA and its external relations, please see page 16.

Instead of a Conclusion

For the year 2002-2003, the IFMSA has had 38 international Officials, who have worked hard for the federation alongside their medical studies. The IFMSA is a strictly idealistic

organisation, and most of these officials have not only invested their time, but have also covered their own travelling expenses in the performance of their work. It has been a privilege for the Executive Board 2002-2003 to work with our fellow officials and our national members across the world, and we would like to thank them for a teamwork that has lifted our organisation to a new level in the fight for global health.

Kristina Sjoberg Oegaard (Norway),
IFMSA President
 president@ifmsa.org



Mr Marius Grima (Malta),
IFMSA Treasurer
 treasurer@ifmsa.org

Preliminary Financial Report 2001-2002

to be adopted by the General Assembly of the IFMSA in March 2004

Assets

All Figures are in EURO

Cash and Cash Equivalents	172.787,85
Grants Receivable	54.348,75
Prepaid Expense	0,00
Total Assets	227.136,60

Liabilities

All Figures are in EURO

Accounts Payable	61.974,13
Accrued Liabilities	44.814,91
Deferred Liabilities	69.936,18
Total Liabilities	176.725,22
Net Assets (Fund Balance)	50.411,38

Revenues

All Figures are in EURO

Government Grants	7.500,00
Membership Fees	56.692,90
Sales of Marketing Products	731,09
Financial Income (Interest & Fees)	3.596,64
Other Income	347,96
Total Income	68.868,59

Expenses

All Figures are in EURO

Exchange Programmes	7.366,93
Health Programmes	3.103,16
Education & Society Programmes	5.789,90
Training Program	786,26
Management & General	37.207,59
Total Expenses	54.253,84
Increase in Net Assets	14.614,75



IFMSA International Team 2002 -2003

EXECUTIVE BOARD

President -

Kristina Sjoberg Oegaard, *Norway*

Secretary General -

Jana Myndiukova, *Slovakia*

Vice President for Internal Affairs -

Yu-Chen (Tony) Tsai, *Taiwan*

Vice President for External Affairs -

Ciprian Dospinescu, *Romania*

Treasurer -

Marius Grima, *Malta*

STANDING COMMITTEES

Director, Standing Committee On Medical Education (SCOME) -

Ozgur Onur, *Germany*

Director, Standing Committee On Professional Exchange (SCOPE) -

Andras Szigeti, *Hungary*

Director, Standing Committee On Public Health (SCOPH) -

Gesthimani (Gefsi) Mintzioti, *Greece*

Director, Standing Committee On Reproductive Health & AIDS (SCORA) -

Alia Skhiri, *Tunisia*

Director, Standing Committee On Research Exchange (SCORE) -

Paolo Fabio Patruno, *Italy*

Director, Standing Committee On Refugees and Peace (SCORP) -

Mladen Milovanovic, *Sweden*

SUPPORT DIVISIONS

Directors, New Technologies Support Division -

Antonis Kaintatzis, *Greece*

Danko Batinic*, *Croatia*

Director, Projects Support Division -

Ciprian Olaru, *Romania*

Director, Training & Resources Development -

Timothy Rittman, *United Kingdom*

Directors, Division of Publications -

Panagiotis (Panos) Alexopoulos, *Greece*

Nidhi Gupta, *United Kingdom*

Director, Alumni Relations Support Division -

Jacco Veldhuyzen, *The Netherlands***

LIAISON OFFICERS

Liaison Officer, Asian Medical Students' Association -

Toshiaki Baba, *Japan*

Liaison Officer, European Medical Students' Association -

Ana Jurin, *Croatia*

Liaison Officer, Global Health Council -

Sapna Amin, *USA*

Liaison Officer, International Physicians for the Prevention of Nuclear War -

Gesthimani (Mania) Misirli, *Greece*

Liaison Officer, Joint United Nations Programme on HIV / AIDS -

Michal Odermarsky, *Slovakia*

Liaison Officer, United Nations Children's Fund -

Janneke van den Bergen, *The Netherlands*

Liaison Officer, United Nations Educational, Social, and Cultural Organization -

Youri Yordanov, *France*

Liaison Officer, United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees -

Tariq Jawaid Alam, *Pakistan*

Liaison Officer, United Nations Population Fund -

Selen Ors, *Turkey*

Liaison Officer, World Federation of Medical Education -

Ozgur Onur, *Germany*

Liaison Officer, World Health Organization -

Felix Lorang, *Germany*

Liaison Officer, World Medical Association -

Kristina Sjoberg Oegaard, *Norway*

REGIONAL COORDINATORS

Regional Coordinator of Africa -

Jean-Paul Rwabihama, *Rwanda*

Regional Coordinator of the Americas -

Rosa Isabel Escamilla Bran, *Guatemala*

Regional Coordinator of Asia and Oceania -

Joel Hernandez Buenaventura, *The Philippines*

Regional Coordinator of Eastern Mediterranean -

Zied Mhrisi, *Tunisia*

Regional Coordinator of Europe and Central Asia -

Konstantinos Stellos, *Greece*

INITIATIVE COORDINATORS

Coordinator, Implementation of Interaction Method Initiative -

Benjamin Geisler, *Germany*

SUPERVISING COUNCIL

Nikola Borojevic, *Croatia*

Georgios (George) Dafoulas, *Greece*

Predrag Djukic, *Serbia and Montenegro*

Marta Ocampo Fontangordo, *Spain*

**Suspended in July 2003 by the Supervising Council and in August 2003 by the General Assembly of the IFMSA*

*** Resigned from office in March 2003*



IFMSA International Team 2002-03, Tallinn, Estonia, March 2003

Training & Resources Development

Training and Resources Development was one of the priorities of the IFMSA in the academic year 2002-03



Participants of the Training New Trainers (TNT) Workshop, the Netherlands, August 2003

The year 2002-03 has been a year of growth for the IFMSA's training team. Building on the foundation work of previous years, this year's team has taken steps to integrate training in to the core of the organisation and provide a platform for future development.



Of particular importance has been the introduction of the Training New Trainers (TNT) workshop. This trained 16 students, with representatives from most of the IFMSA's regions, to run sessions as part of the August Meeting. Running alongside this, the General Assembly training was restructured for the August Meeting to provide three levels of training. This way, participants received training appropriate to their level of expertise and can develop over a number of meetings. The feedback from the August meeting's training suggests this is an area to build on in the coming year.

The March Meeting's programme of training events was successful and the feedback encouraging. A variety of IFMSA personnel and external trainers provided a broad range of training topics to all the meeting's delegates.

Training has been run for IFMSA officials at each of the Executive Board meetings, with a mixture of external trainers and IFMSA personnel leading sessions. These have been on a variety of topics which the Officials have gone on to use in their work.

The Interaction Method project has become an initiative project this year, highlighting the importance of its work. Many useful contacts and opportunities have developed for the project this year.

The ever growing resources of the training team have been used by a number of groups this year, such as the sub-regional training event held in Portugal and the national meeting of IFMSA -Pakistan. In meeting this need, the training team completed the review of the online collection of training resources at the end of the summer 2003.

Timothy Rittman (United Kingdom), *Director IFMSA Support Division for Training & Resources Development*
trd@ifmsa.org



Mr Timothy Rittman and Mr Malcolm Rittman, the Principle UK Youth Officer for Hampshire who was one of the trainers at the Training New Trainers Workshop, the Netherlands, August 2003



Training Session on Group Dynamics, Training New Trainers Workshop, the Netherlands, August 2003

Medical Education

Introduction

One of the most important objectives of the Standing Committee on Medical Education (SCOME) is to empower its members for the further improvement of their medical education on a local and national level. To achieve this the SCOME organized two international workshops this year: "Medical education: changed by students" and "The Bologna declaration". These dealt with evaluation, advocating, different teaching and learning methods, computer-based-learning and strategic planning. Participants from almost all five regions within the IFMSA attended this workshop, whereas the second workshop had a European perspective. Furthermore there has been regional and national training in Spain, Germany, the Philippines, Japan and Sweden.



Since 1998 the World Federation of Medical Education has worked to set global standards in basic, postgraduate and continuous Medical Education. From the beginning students have been represented by the IFMSA-SCOME. This year this process was finalized at the world conference on medical education, where the International delegation endorsed global standards as a framework for further improvement in the educational sector.

Finally important progress was made in the education-based-projects. Teaching Geriatrics in Medical Education (TeGeME), a cooperative project with the World Health Organization (WHO) was initiated and developed. Additionally the IFMSA and the WHO organized a seminar on Ageing & Health on the Gerontology conference in Barcelona.

Without a doubt the academic year 2002-03 was a step forward for the dynamic student intervention in the debate concerning medical education worldwide!

Ozgun Onur (Germany), *Director, IFMSA Standing Committee on Medical Education*
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Projects & Activities

ASPIS

The Awareness Strategies for Pollution from IndustrieS is a project coordinated by the Hellenic Medical Students' International

Committee (HeIMSiC), Greece and the National Kapodistrian University of Athens, Greece. Awareness Strategies for Pollution from IndustrieS (ASPIS= Ancient Greek word for "shield") started as a European Project and it has resulted in a cluster of projects (ASPIS I and ASPIS II) with the aim to inform and raise awareness of decision makers about environmental issues (civil servants, engineers, medics, lawyers and journalists). ASPIS has developed a 'tool of decision making'. It is based at the Trans European Environmental Educational Health Network (TREEE Health Net) that was launched in 1994 following an initiative of the University of Athens to collaborate with the University of Liverpool and since 1996 with the Free University of Brussels.

With the participation of medical students from different countries in all stages of the project, ASPIS has aimed not only to inform young health professionals about current health-related environmental issues, but also bring promote seminars and round table discussions about the future and implications of human activity on health, as well as to motivate medical students towards the prevention of environmental induced disease and environmental pollution. Through IFMSA, TREEE Health Net is available to medical students globally, giving them the opportunity for further learning and discussion.

Coordinators of the project were invited and attended the European Seminar with the participation of experts from the USA on "Endocrine Disruptors and their implications on human health" in Lesbos, Greece, August 8th 2002. On December 15th 2002 ASPIS coordinators were invited to join a Greek TV programme, dealing with ecological action. At the March Meeting of the IFMSA in Estonia 2003 the new phase of ASPIS, called AREHNA was presented. ASPIS organized the conference "Mobility and Health", which took place on Kos island (May 3rd -6th 2003). For further information contact the coordinators: aspis@ath.forthnet.gr



Participants of the Conference "Mobility & Health", Kos, Greece, May 2003

Health Exchange Project

The Health Exchange Project is run by the German Medical Students' Association (GeMSA), Germany. The central aim of the

coordinators of the project is to work within the first WHO Global Traditional Medicine Strategy, to achieve its strategies and goals toward a better understanding and incorporation of traditional treatments. The project is an attempt to bring students from India and Germany together to work in cooperation with a non-governmental organization from the area to explore ways of integrating traditional and allopathic practices, to gain knowledge of development projects and possibilities of improving health care systems.

The coordinators propose to deliver appropriate health care in exchange for indigenous knowledge of traditional healing techniques. Data on indigenous health care techniques will be collected, and they hope finally to establish an institute for traditional healing in Uttaranchal. Target areas will be remote villages presently not accessed by allopathic medicine or governmental "health camps". They plan to work from the beginning with two mobile units moving in a fortnightly rotation from village to village. In addition to the medical staff consisting of two physicians, a traditional specialist and health workers, there will be at least one anthropologist (student) participating and interviewing the people after they receive of medical treatment. The State Government already operates "Health Camps". These are limited in scope and stick to the main roads. The aim of the coordinators is to reach more remote villages. For further information contact the coordinators:
Doreen.Montag@campus.lmu.de

Influence of Studies on Students' Health

Influence of Studies on Students' Health is a project run by the IFMSA -Croatia, Croatia. The coordinators aim to determine the level of possible deterioration of health among medical and non-medical students. Studying, organization and curricula could be determined as 'stressogenous noxa'. The project aims to establish the level of correlation between countries, types of education and type of studies in relation to stress related diseases. The project is based on a 25-question survey. The results are statistically analyzed and compared to other countries involved. They can be used to help change medical curricula and improve education, introduce need for stress management at medical faculties as well as encourage proactive approach of medical students on student issues. The results suggest high level of stress, and therefore Stress and Time management courses for interested students will be organized. For further information contact the coordinators:
influenceofstudying@yahoo.com

Curriculum Database

The Curriculum Database is run by the IFMSA -Romania, Romania and aims to offer an opportunity to medical students to find information about the ways of studying and teaching medicine in other faculties and countries. There is an increasing need for information on different medical universities on a worldwide scale without the difficulties of using multiple servers in different countries. Moreover the opportunity for National Officers on Medical Education to obtain a comparison of different curricula within their nations and across counties is invaluable. This data aids their continuing work to improve their curricula. Another benefit of this project is that the information being provided includes both an official and students' point of view. The coordinators of this transnational project understand that amongst students, there is a need for knowledge in the field of medical curricula. The Curriculum Database website is one of the tools that will help not only student representatives to find out details about different and more developed medical education systems, but also all medical students that intend to take part in a student exchange program. The website (<http://curriculumdatabase.osmcluj.ro>) is on the homepage of the SCOME, so that every medical student can visit it. For further information contact the coordinators: cd@osmcluj.ro

Implementation of 'Interaction Method

Implementation of 'Interaction Method' is an IFMSA initiative, i.e. a central project of the Federation. It is coordinated by an IFMSA official. To the implementation of the project contribute not only IFMSA members, but also externals. The main goal of the project is to strengthen the IFMSA and make it more productive by applying Interaction Methodology of chairing and facilitating meetings.

Over the past years the IFMSA has been implementing more training to build capacity within the organization and improve meetings and outcomes. That training was welcomed by IFMSA members with great participation and enthusiasm. Bjorg Thorsteindottir (IFMSA president 97/98) started an ambitious project and introduced "Interaction Method" to the organization. Now her work is continued. Interaction Associates, the developers of the methodology, are eager to support and give the IFMSA the opportunity to become more effective by systematic application of "Interaction Method of Chairing and Facilitating Meeting". That shall be achieved by training individuals in the IFMSA in their biannual meetings, by training all Executive Board members and officials at the beginning of their mandate, enabling them to immediately apply and adapt their new learned skills in their leadership role.

The training has not only results on the international level by building new

capacities, but individuals return to their home countries taking back new abilities to strengthen their project-based work, both locally and nationally. The participants trained are not only medical students, but also potential leaders in their communities and countries. For further information visit: www.trd.gemsa.info



Benjamin Geisler (Coordinator of the Implementation of Interaction Method Initiative) and Ketil Widerberg (Project Consultant) at office

International Standards on Medical Education

The International Standards on Medical Education is a transnational project organized by the Turkish Medical Students' International Committee (TurkMSIC), Turkey and by the Egyptian Medical Students' Association (EMSA), Egypt. The central goal of the project is to achieve changes in medical education. The initiatives may come from students or administrative bodies. The aim of this project is to promote amongst both parties to make the necessary changes for implementing of international standards. It has been promoted in Turkish medical schools, in Egyptian universities, as well as in the international meetings of the IFMSA, so that international medical students are motivated to get involved and disseminate the report of the World Federation for Medical Education, highlighting the necessity of making medical students familiar with internalization and international standards in medical education. For further information contact the coordinators: nergizdagoglu@hotmail.com, or mobxc@yahoo.com

Residency Database

Being a transnational project run by the Hellenic Medical Students' International Committee (HelMSIC), Greece and by the IFMSA-Spain, Spain, the Residency Database (RDb) aims to facilitate international medical students and young doctors to reach information concerning the residency system and application procedure in different countries. Furthermore, it provides visitors with the chance to compare the advantages and the disadvantages of the many different countries' residency systems, along with the opportunity for further research in this field.

The importance of this project lies to the fact that a continuous growing number

of medical scientists from all over the world desire to specialize or sub-specialize in a medical field outside his/her own country and they face a lot of difficulties in finding the proper source of information. The Residency Database project will facilitate these people to have an easy and quick access to the relevant information. For further information contact the coordinators: residency_database@yahoo.com

Rex Crossley Award

The Rex Crossley Award is a project run by R BARN Foundation for Medicine and Health, Craiova, Romania in association with the Romanian Federation of Medical Students Associations (IFMSA-Romania), Romania and the Association of Medical Students in Bulgaria (AMSB), Bulgaria. It is an award for scientific research projects (RCA for RP) choosing the best four papers published in a medical journal or presented at an international scientific conference in the previous 2 years, as well as for official IFMSA projects (P&I) selecting the most representative for the values promoted by the IFMSA. It takes place every two years, during the March Meeting of the IFMSA. The first edition of the RCA Ceremony will take place at the March Meeting 2005. The coordinators are creating an international select committee in collaboration with professors from medical universities all over the world and Organizing Committee members of national/international medical students' conferences. For further information contact the coordinators: rbarn@xnet.ro

6th International Congress of Medical Students Advances in Medical Biotechnology

The 6th International Congress of Medical Students Advances in Medical Biotechnology is an endorsed project organised by the Salvadorian Medical Students' Association (SOMS), El Salvador and its main goal is to help medical students' integral education and improve their interest in scientific research. The meeting was held in San Salvador, El Salvador between May 22nd -24th 2003 and aimed to motivate scientific research interest among medical students through research projects contest, as well as to cultivate communications among medical students from El Salvador, Latin America and other countries around the world, who attended the congress. The congress intended to contribute both to the acquirement of knowledge about the latest advances in medical biotechnology and to the discussion of ethical issues related to biotechnology. Moreover the organising committee introduced El Salvador to the participants as a country with interest in the development of the medical science. For further information contact the coordinators: yennyzablah@integra.com.sv



Mobility Programmes

Professional Exchanges

The Standing Committee of Professional Exchanges (SCOPE) has developed greatly over the past year. Progress has been significantly made via the establishment of the electronic exchanges. This has led to a more efficient process that all students have found useful and informative. It has also allowed the inclusion of many students previously unable to do exchanges due to the nature of the bi-annual conferences.



Focused on exchanges, the new issue of the Medical Student International (MSI) was distributed at the August Meeting. New promotional presentations and other materials were distributed along with the new version of the National Exchange Officer (NEO) CD-rom. This new, interactive CD-rom contains several files and also handbooks for national and local exchange officers, also some useful file for fundraising and a picture gallery.

In the biggest Standing Committee of the IFMSA there are 71 national organisation working actively, in 68 different countries worldwide. During the academic year 2002-03 5896 professional exchanges took place across the globe. A professional exchange means an exchange of a medical student who undergoes a medical practice in a hospital abroad. This practice, named clerkship, is purely educational for the student and he/she will not receive a salary for it. There are two types of SCOPE clerkships: Pre-clinical Clerkship and Clinical Clerkship. A Pre-clinical Clerkship is defined as the stay of a student working or studying in a pre-clinical department at a medical faculty/school or hospital. A Clinical Clerkship is defined as the stay of a student in a clinical department of a hospital or clinic, or attached to a general practitioner. Clerkships can be offered basically in all clinical and pre-clinical fields of medicine. The duration of a clerkship is four weeks. Clerkships are given in English or in the language of the country.



Members of the SCORE, March Meeting, Estonia, 2003

The IFMSA was very much focusing on Africa and Latin America this year and developed their regional as well as international exchange structure. The first Regional Meeting of the Latin American region was held between 24-28 May, in San Salvador, El Salvador, with huge success. This year, two more Latin American countries joined the Standing Committee on Professional Exchanges: Argentina and Chile.

Last but not least, in order to assist the newly formed national member organisations which have been involved in professional Exchanges, we have developed the SCOPE Godfathering program.

Andras Zsolt Szigeti (Hungary), *Director IFMSA Standing Committee on Professional Exchange*
scoped@ifmsa.org



Research Exchanges

Research exchange is a 1-6 month program offering the opportunity to every medical student around the world to participate in a focused and personalized research program in order to expand his/her knowledge in a specific scientific area. The participants are in the position to earn credits, to interact with other cultures and form social and professional networks.



The Standing Committee on Research Exchanges (SCORE) provides the medical students with a unique possibility to experience a clinical or pre-clinical research in a foreign country. The student is incorporated in a research team and conducts a research work under the supervision of a certain tutor. The student is guided through the basic principles of research, such as literature studies, collecting information, scientific writing, laboratory work, statistics and ethical aspects. At the end of the project, the student might be expected to write a short essay about his/her results and achievements.

The research project itself deepens the specific knowledge in the field of the student's interest. The possibility of doing the research abroad contributes to the broadening of the students' professional and human horizon; it introduces a different approach to research, medical education, health care and ethics to the student. Through this international exchange programme, the SCORE contributes to the international cooperation and understanding between the medical faculties, research institutes and - last but not least - among the students and health care professionals as human beings.

In the SCORE there are 45 national organizations working actively, in 42 different countries worldwide. During the academic year 2002-03 486 research exchanges took place across the globe. Moreover we continued our efforts not only to expand research projects in countries such as France, United Kingdom, Tunisia, Thailand and Chile, but also to improve the quality of the existing research projects and to make them relevant both to the needs of medical students and to modern scientific challenges! SCORE the world!

Paolo Patruno (Italy), *Director IFMSA Standing Committee on Research Exchange*
scored@ifmsa.org

Meetings

Walking by Candlelight...

More than 350 medical students from 63 countries around the world walked along the streets of central Paernu, Southern Estonia on March 5th 2003. Each student held a candle to show their concern for the people across the globe who have been affected by the HIV and AIDS. Moreover they wanted to remind all societies of the human cost of the epidemic. The candle march was held as the central event of the 52nd March Meeting of the International Federation of Medical Students' Associations (IFMSA), which took place in Paernu, between March 2nd-8th and was organised by the Estonian Medical Students' Association (EstMSA), Estonia. The Standing Committee on Reproductive Health including AIDS (SCORA) organised the candle-march. The director of the SCORA Alia Skhiri (Tunisia) commented: "Walking by candlelight shone a light to make aware the melancholy effects of HIV. Furthermore it ensured people around the world not only that the IFMSA, as the global forum for medical students, has already taken into consideration the human cost of AIDS, but even more that we as future physicians are actively working for a healthier tomorrow"

Panos Alexopoulos (Greece), *Director IFMSA Support Division of Publications*
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Medical students walked by candlelight reminding human communities of the human cost of AIDS, Paernu, southern Estonia, March 2003

52nd General Assembly, Egmond aan Zee, The Netherlands

The 52nd August Meeting of the IFMSA took place between August 3rd-9th 2003, in a little village called Egmond aan Zee, in the Netherlands. This village is about 40 kilometres away from Amsterdam and is situated at the coast of the North Sea.

In this little village, 530 medical students and external guests from several organisations, gathered together.

The students represented more than 75 of IFMSA's National Member Organisations, a number to be proud of. Also, since a very long time, if not the first time, every single Asian National Member Organization was represented at the meeting!

All the participants had a very full program that week. The program of the meeting was filled with, among others, working committee time, training sessions, and plenary sessions. Part of the program was also dedicated to the theme of the meeting, "Medical Ethics".

As the meeting was being held in the Netherlands we wanted the participants of the meeting to learn and understand the Dutch healthcare system. We wanted to elaborate the means and motives of the Dutch healthcare system and the reason why there are certain policies. For that reason, a debate involving the Dutch Health Care system was held.



Besides this debate, there were Round Table Discussions, on topics relevant to the IFMSA Standing Committees. The different topics were all very interesting and good discussions have taken place.

All in all, the meeting has been a very productive one. According to several comments received, participants have been enjoying themselves very much, besides all the hard work that has, yet again, taken place during one week!

On behalf of the Organising Committee,
Marjolein Zwaan (The Netherlands),
President of the Organising Committee of the 52nd IFMSA August Meeting
marjolein.zwaan@hetnet.nl

5th CLAMSA Regional Meeting

The 5th IFMSA's Caribbean and Latin American Medical Students' Association (CLAMSA) regional meeting was organised by the Salvadorian Medical Students' Association (SOMS, El Salvador). The meeting was held in San Salvador, El Salvador between May 22nd -24th 2003. The delegations managed to consolidate the collaboration among them in almost all the fields of activities of the IFMSA. For more information contact the organising committee:
yennyzablah@integra.com.sv

CLAMSA Meeting on Exchanges

The 1st IFMSA Latin American and Caribbean Regional Training for National Exchange Officers & National Officers on Research Exchange was organised by the Salvadorian Organization of Medical Students (SOMS, El Salvador). It was held in San Salvador, El Salvador between May 22nd -24th 2003. The central aim of the meeting was to motivate all volunteers involved in the field of exchanges to promote medical student mobility among the countries of Latin America and the Caribbean. For further information contact the organising committee:
yennyzablah@integra.com.sv

Refugees & Peace

The Year in Review

In academic year 2002-03, the Standing Committee on Refugees and Peace (SCORP) arranged an extensive number of projects and events. Two of our greatest international achievements were the "International Training on Refugee Health - Reaching out to a Humanity Unseen" and the IFMSA-Council of Europe Study Session "Health and Human Rights of Refugees, Immigrants and Minorities in Europe".



The internal structure of the committee has been developed further and the regional associations have been established.

Although being quite young outside Europe, we have witnessed some tremendous developments of the SCORP in other regions. Activities such as: awareness campaigns, educational workshops for medics and collection of first aid material have been organised. Throughout the year, extensive promotional and marketing materials have been produced and are available in Chinese, English, French, German and Spanish.

A team of SCORP-members created the first version of SCORP Manual. In addition to that, the "SCORP Handbooks for the March Meeting 2003 and for the August Meeting 2003" were authored and the "SCORP CD-ROM 2003" was created.

Looking back at the year of 2002-03, I am confident that the next year will also be a successful and a productive one. Students' enthusiasm and burning wish to use the power to change will bring a new level of diversity and energy in the work that we do.

Mladen Milovanovic (Sweden), *Director, IFMSA Standing Committee on Refugees and Peace*
scorpd@ifmsa.org

Projects & Activities

Lebanon Refugee Project

The central scope of the Lebanon Refugee Project, which is organized by the Lebanese Medical Students' International Committee (LeMSIC), Lebanon, and by the IFMSA-Switzerland, Switzerland, is to give foreigners the opportunity to experience both clinical and social work with refugees in a camp in Lebanon. International volunteers participated in the project between July 1st - August

31st 2003. For more details visit:
<http://lebreferugeeproject.tripod.com>

Peace Test

The Peace Test is an endorsed project run by the IFMSA -USA, USA. A Peace Test website has been developed and is in use to assess the concept of moral disengagement as it is related to war. Additional websites have been (and still are being) developed to assess moral disengagement as it relates to killing, interpersonal violence, ethnic and social intolerance and human rights. A collaborative effort with the SCORP has resulted in the creation of support and publicity for the peace test survey project by medical students across many different countries. The purpose is to develop support structures across different countries and to have medical students engaged in peace test data collection. The survey results can then be used in the respective countries to generate debates and educate the public about the relationship between moral disengagement and the support for violence. Making that relationship between attitudes and behavior explicit is the first step in challenging violence-condoning attitudes so as to change violent behavior. For further information visit: www.peacetest.org

Einstein Youth Violence Project

The Einstein Youth Violence project (EYVP) is organized by the IFMSA -USA, USA. Implementing EYVP raises awareness about youth violence and motivates medics to take action against youth violence. The coordinators encourage long-term commitment to EYVP, thus creating a sustained community-based program. They have spread information about EYVP to interested Local Medical Organisations both nationally and internationally. A summary of the program and an outline of the curriculum was received well by the members of the SCORP at the 2003 March Meeting and was taken back to their respective countries. On a national level, the coordinators have continued to work with the existing EYVP programs, helping to support them with ideas and possible sponsors for resources. Also, one of the biggest achievements of EYVP thus far is that one of the programs has now been integrated into the actual school day of the elementary school. In addition, they are also working with local organizations such as the Boys and Girls Club. The Boys and Girls Club is a national organization with community centers that provides after school activities for children in underserved and less privileged areas. The goal is to try and integrate EYVP into part of the curriculum of the Boys and Girls Club.

IMSHF -Peace

The IMSHF is an endorsed project run by the IFMSA -Romania, Romania. The second edition of the IMSHF took place between 20th -30th July 2003 with the intention of organising a student lead campaign against violence and promoting peace and human rights on a national level. The campaign compromised a congress, a hobbies festival, a peace pilgrimage, all of them on the theme of peace. The second IMSHF edition has proved that the project is time-reliable and efficient in fulfilling its objectives, which mean organising campaigns with a large impact on a national and international level, campaigns dedicated to the promotion of concepts that make the basis of any modern and civilised society. The IMSHF 2002 contributed to the recognition of the social status of the Romanian HIV+ children and IMSHF -Peace 2003 promoted the concept of peace and human rights-respect.

The necessity of exchanging opinions and ideas between medical students is obvious. The IMSHF project has been since its first edition an original occasion for medical students from all over the world to express their passions and interests and in this way to make a difference for those in need: HIV+ children (IMSHF 2002)/violence victims (IMSHF -Peace 2003). Our main aim is to raise by 30% the knowledge level of certain target-groups about human rights, about the violence problems/peace problems that exist on a national and international level, about the organisations active in defending human rights/the violence-victims-protection-centres. For more information contact the coordinators: imshf_2003@yahoo.com

Gender Week

In May 5th -9th, 2003, IFMSA -Sweden, Sweden and its local committees organized a theme week on gender perspective in medicine at four medical schools in Stockholm, Lund, Linköping and Umeå, respectively. The week compromised lectures by well-known scientists on different themes such as trafficking, gender and public health, intersexuality, female genital mutilation, as well as public debates, films and exhibitions. About 500 persons participated and partners were the respective universities and Amnesty International among others.



The Re -Life Project

International Training on Refugee Health- Reaching out to a Humanity Unseen, Peshwar Pakistan

The International Training on Refugee Health for Medical Students is organized jointly by the IFMSA -Pakistan, Pakistan, the International Medical Cooperation Committee, Denmark, the Finnish Medical Students' International Committee (FiMSIC), Finland, the IFMSA -Sweden, Sweden and the IFMSA -USA, USA. It is hosted by the IFMSA -Pakistan in the city of Peshwar. The main goal of the project is to educate future physicians properly so that they can work to alleviate pain of refugee populations both in Pakistan and elsewhere. The project aims to motivate medical students to get involved in non-governmental organizations and in other organizations, working in the field of refugee health. The refugee situation in Pakistan has become complex since more than 1500000 Afghan refugees are living in Pakistan. Their living conditions are highly distressing with poor infrastructure. Thus infectious, communicable and non-communicable, as well as preventable diseases have spread rapidly. Besides refugees, the local communities are at risk.

The Refugee Health Training is an initiative offering Pakistani, Afghan and international medical students the golden opportunity to contribute to the improvement of refugee health care in Pakistan. The project has been funded by the Finnish Foreign Ministry, the Swedish International Development Agency- SIDA Youth Fund and by the IPPNW -Sweden. Moreover students from Denmark, USA and other countries around the world have fundraised and developed the programme manual. The project constitutes a brilliant example of successful cooperation among medical students belonging to communities living in different parts of the world! For further information contact the organising committee: lunhcr@ifmsa.org

The Re-Life Project

Today, ten years after the Balkan wars started, Balkan medics are witnessing a generation of children who have been raised, some even born, in refugee camps, in a ghettoized, lonely and left-from-the-whole-world atmosphere. Drug and alcohol abuse are very common both in the young and elderly population. People often indulge in violence as they live in confined spaces, with no privacy, which all result in abusive behavior towards children. The impact on psychological health of the children is obvious - children and adolescents have no possibility to spend their free time adequately, or to learn socially accepted models of behaviour in such surroundings. The question of their physical health care has also been raised. The project Psychosocial and Health Empowerment of the Refugee Children in Collective Settlements, or in other words the Re-Life project in-

corporates both of these aspects. The medical students exchange program, managed by the IFMSA, offers foreign medics opportunities to improve their knowledge in refugee and medical issues. Being an endorsed project, it is a joint project of the local Committee of Novi Sad of the IFMSA -Serbia and Montenegro, Physicians for Peace (IPPNW affiliate Serbia) and Center for Psychosocial Support SRCE. It started in September 2001, and involves 30 students of medicine and dentistry and several young doctors. Members of SRCE who are professional psychiatrists, psychologists and pediatricians provide supervision and training. The idea comes from a very successful project Friendship Clubs, carried out also by the IFMSA -Serbia and Montenegro, the first project of this kind organized by medics in Serbia and Montenegro.

The goals of the project are to monitor and evaluate health conditions of children and adolescents, to provide psychosocial support - to help the refugee children to overcome the trauma they suffered and to help their integration in the local community, through the series of lectures, talks and activities, and to improve health and mental hygiene in the settlement through education. For more details contact: gavras@nspoint.net



The Re-Life Project

Athens 2004 Volunteer Campaign

The Hellenic Medical Students' International Committee (HelMSIC), Greece received the

"Leventis Foundation award for Olympic Games preparations". This award is granted to persons or non-governmental organizations that have greatly contributed to the preparations of Athens 2004 Olympic Games and it consists of a grant of 5.000 euros.

In 2000 the executive board of the HelMSIC initiated and coordinated the "Athens 2004 volunteer campaign", which had been proposed by Mr Georgios Dafoulas a member of the HelMSIC. The central scope of the campaign has been the recruitment of Olympic volunteers being specialized in the medical area. The members of the HelMSIC have worked hard not only on supporting the campaign, but also on promoting Olympic volunteerism within the international forum of medical students.

The IFMSA and the national member organizations of the federation have contributed to the "Olympic Games 2004 volunteer project" and have supported the efforts of Greek medics in this field. Furthermore the General Assembly of the IFMSA adopted "The IFMSA Resolution on Olympic Truce", which was proposed by the HelMSIC and the SCORP at the March Meeting 2002 in Kopaonik, Yugoslavia.

The award ceremony took place on the 18th of May in the Hellenic Olympic Committee building, in Athens, Greece. The president of the HelMSIC Ms Stella -Leda Papadopoulou received the award from the Minister of Sports of Greece Mr. Georgios. Liannis.

The entire HelMSIC community believes that the assistance of international medical students is going to make the Olympic Games of 2004 in Athens an unforgettable experience not only for the athletes or for the audience, but even more for all the Olympic volunteers who are going to play a crucial role in the success of the games! For more information contact the coordinators: helmsicb@yahoo.com



Members of the HelMSIC with the Minister of Sports of Greece, with members of the Greek Parliament and with one member of the International Olympic Committee, after the award ceremony (Athens, May 18th 2003)

Public Health

Introduction

This year in the Standing Committee of Public Health (SCOPH) the focus has been on both communicable and non-communicable diseases. The largest project developed in the first category was the pre-General Assembly workshop on "Stop Tuberculosis". As a result of the high interest on Tuberculosis, the IFMSA became a partner of the "Stop TB Global Partnership" and the "IFMSA SCOPH Anti Tuberculosis Campaign" was initiated.



Non-communicable diseases have always been a field of active intervention within SCOPH. Last year the IFMSA, the International Pharmaceutical Students' Federation and the World Health Organization signed a joint message under the title: "Advising regular physical activity to patients and people of all ages is one of the best "medicine". As a follow-up a variety of projects were organized all around the world promoting physical activity and healthy lifestyle.

Anti-tobacco is a special issue within the SCOPH as most of our organizations have anti-tobacco-related projects, with tobacco being a great threat to health in both developed and developing countries. The IFMSA has been a member of the Framework Convention Alliance for some years now and the unanimous voting upon the Framework Convention on Tobacco Control during World Health Assembly empowered us to work more intensively at the global battle towards tobacco.

In general, in all our activities through the years, the SCOPH has aimed and managed to motivate, inspire and also enable people to design and implement projects and interventions. Thus, our main work was to make medical students Active Public Health Workers that can empower their local communities for a healthy life-style.

Gesthimani Mintziari (Greece), *Director, IFMSA Standing Committee on Public Health*
scophd@ifmsa.org

Projects & Activities

Calcutta Village Project

The Calcutta Village Project is organized by the Italian Medical Students' Association (SISM), Italy. The aim of the project is to promote and improve the living conditions of

the villagers of the rural areas south of Calcutta and in the meantime to provide western people with knowledge about the developing countries.

The Calcutta Village Project works in order to fundraise and to widespread knowledge about IIMC (Institute for Indian Mother and Child), the Indian non-governmental organization we are supporting. The project consists of different branches: the first that was born is the medical program, which nowadays has one indoor clinic with twenty beds and four outdoor clinics in the surrounding countryside. The medical part basically does primary health care (vaccination, prevention, medical education) but it also has a nutritional programme, a health education and women awareness program. The children treated are most commonly affected by malnutrition, malaria, widespread skin infections and gastrointestinal infections. The second branch is the educational program, with 1200 children going to school. The programme is sponsored by Western families. Sixteen new schools were built where no infrastructures were available. The third sector is the micro-credit program, involving about 2000 women. It consists of giving small loans to women without guarantee who start an activity and give back the money in 1-year with the interest (10% annual rate).

The Calcutta Village Project work includes: fundraising through stands, parties, Indian dinners, managing the rotation of the medical students who go to Calcutta to work in the project, managing the Italian sponsorship program, promotion of the project and the idea of the international cooperation.

The role of volunteers is multi variable in Calcutta: They work as paramedic stuff (giving injections, taking blood pressure, making dressings, etc). But, most of all, they can see how a cooperation and developmental project really works: they go and see whatever they want of the project, every area, and they can help in the educational program, give lessons to the nurses, preparing food for the nutritional program. For further information contact the coordinators: calcuttap@ifmsa.org

Rwanda Village Concept Project

The Rwanda Village Concept Project is coordinated by the German Medical Students' Association (GeMSA), Germany. The goal of the project is to improve the living standards of the community and to give the students the possibility of gaining practical experience in developmental projects and working together as a group.

In the implementation of the project

the coordinators of the project learn of the experiences that were made in comparable preceding students' projects. Since the Ghana Pilot Project (1988-1992), a second project in Ghana, another in Sudan and one in Zimbabwe have been successfully completed. The Rwanda Village Concept Project started in May 2002.

The Rwanda Village Concept project is a purely student-run project, always under the control of an independent professional supervisor. The project goal is, for the students, to actively develop primary health care and preventative medicine in developing countries, as well as to gain experiences about teambuilding. At the forefront is the Malaria prevention program, the construction of latrines, the improvement of nutrition and the income generating activities.

Within a rotation, students from all over the world are involved in the project village and work together with the villagers, the local students and the supervisors, towards the realisation of the project goals. Every time, four students of each sector take part in one rotation. Because the rotations overlap by two months, there are always eight students present in the commune at the same time. This shall guarantee the continuity of the work and will make the lead-in for foreign students easier. For further details contact the coordinators: info@rwanda-vcp.org or anntoine@web.de

Nurse Aid

The Nurse Aid is a pilot endorsed training project run by the Hellenic Medical Students' International Committee (HelMSIC), Greece. It aims to give opportunities to the enrolled students both to acquire nursing and clinical skills and to understand the role of the other health professionals in the hospital environment. Moreover it makes medics aware of the importance of personal contacts with patients, relatives and co-workers and the significance of communication skills in medicine.

Initially, the students have to attend two educational meetings, in order to meet the nurses and learn some basic techniques. After these meetings, the medics are divided in small groups of two or three and go to the hospitals: the organizing committee creates a weekly schedule for the visits to the hospitals. The students are working as aids of previously trained and informed nurses. A specific evaluation form containing the main skills that the students have to be trained to, is distributed both to students and nurses, in order to have an up-to-date record of the participants' progress. For further details contact: elpa98@med.auth.gr

Teddy Bear Hospital Project

The Teddy Bear Hospital project is coordinated both by the German Medical Students' Association (GeMSA), Germany and by the Slovenian Medical Students' International Committee (SloMSIC), Slovenia. It takes place in many countries around the world (Japan, Taiwan, Holland, Portugal, Sweden, Poland, etc). The "Teddy Bear Hospital" (TBH) is a Public Health project for 3-6 year old children. The aim is to take away children's fear of physicians and hospitals. TBH tries to familiarize children in a friendly and pleasant atmosphere with the situation in a hospital or paediatrician's office. In this case the children are the parents of their teddy bear or doll. As Mum and Dad they are responsible for their sick little friends. Now the children are the adults who have to take care of the teddy bear patients. Trained medical students act as teddy doctors and do the examinations and treatments.

A decorated colourful tent is set up as a hospital on a big square in the city centre. Usually in one two-day session, the Teddy Bear-Hospital will see about 400 children with their toys. Before their visit in the TBH the nanny or nurse discuss and talk with the children about "being ill", physicians and hospitals. The children are advised to think about diseases for their dolls which will be treated later in the TBH. First the children explain the history of the present illness of their teddy bear to a teddy doctor. Together they make an anamnesis and after this the teddy doctor does a "physical examination". After this the patient gets a medical treatment. Finally the teddy doctor writes a prescription and the child can get some "medicine" sweets in the "TBH- Pharmacy". Besides they have also the opportunity to explore an ambulance car. For further information contact: evaciric@yahoo.com or tbh@gemsa.info



Teddy Bear Hospital Project

3rd International Workshop "Stop TB"

The 3rd Annual International Workshop Stop TB was organized by the Egyptian Medical Students' Association (EMSA). The aim of the project was to increase awareness by medical students about the re-emergence of Tuberculosis in a pandemic. A secondary aim was to establish an international strategy among IFMSA medical students against TB. The workshop took place between July 31st - August 3rd 2003 in Egmond an See, the Netherlands. Many distinguished speakers

from different International NGOs and Governments gave the participants a clear view with regard to the current situation of TB. Gender equity, participation of North and South countries were considered. For further details contact the coordinators: stoptb@yahoo.co.uk

Orphanage Initiative

The Orphanage Initiative in Romania is an international endorsed project coordinated by the IFMSA -Romania, Romania & and by the IFMSA -Norway, Norway. The project has been running for several years. The coordinators aim that children will benefit from the interaction with the students, but also that the staff will be motivated to do an even better job.

In 2003 we had 49 student volunteers. The rotations were arranged in four cities: Iasi, Cluj, Timisoara and Bucharest. The students played with the children, took them out on field trips, made puppet shows and so on. For further details contact: grontvedt@hotmail.com

Raising Public Awareness on Organ Donation and Donor Card Topic Project

The Raising Public Awareness on Organ Donation and Donor Card Topic Project is run by the IFMSA -Croatia, Croatia. The mission of this endorsed project is to make people aware of organ and tissue donation, donor cards, helping people after they die, using their body to help others, donation of blood and bone marrow. The coordinators of the project organise lectures, recruit new student volunteers to work on the project, contact more primary care doctors to have Donor cards in their office and to organize places for donor cards in hospitals. More and more medical students are getting involved and people are not afraid to talk about this topic any more. For further details contact: anas@hi.hinet.hr

Emerging & Re-emerging Diseases Workshop

The Emerging and Re-emerging Diseases Workshop was organised by IFMSA Costa Rica, Costa Rica, and the School of Public Health of the University of Costa Rica. It was a 18-day workshop (August 17th-31st), divided into two sections: one week of classes about new epidemics and re-emerging diseases and a second week of clinical practice in Primary Health Care Centres in rural areas. For further details contact the coordinators: erews_cr@telepolis.com

International Students Network on Ageing and Health

The International Students Network on Ageing and Health is coordinated by the IFMSA-Romania, Romania. It was created to serve as an umbrella for all IFMSA activities in the field of Ageing, as well as to promote

all projects and events, at local and international level. The project is based mainly on our webpage (www.ishah.cjb.net) and our mailing list. The activities of this transnational project are divided into four major components: Information dissemination, community and research projects, stimulation of intergenerational contact, creation of public health projects at a community level and creation of a research database of opportunities of internships in ageing and health.

The participants of the projects have made contributions to the discussion about Curriculum Development. Their vision is to change the medical education and other health associated education to face up to the challenge of an ageing population. They have advocated for the rights of older persons, including old age care in national health policies and to put these issues on the priority agenda. For further information contact: manuelamoraru@yahoo.com



Promoting Adolescent Health & Development Project

Innovative Approaches in Promoting Adolescent Health and Development

The Innovative Approaches in Promoting Adolescent Health and Development is a transnational project run by the IFMSA -Croatia, Croatia. The project aims to facilitate access to information on youth lifestyle matters as part of a strategic response to adolescent health and development needs amongst adolescents and youth in the Eastern Mediterranean Region. It strengthens partnerships among faculties of medicine, professional bodies and the citizen society in Egypt, Kuwait, Lebanon and Palestine. A recent review of the need for adolescent health and development policy, strategy and programs in the Region recognized tobacco and other substance use as an area of high priority and called for action. The survey has been done in the above mentioned countries. Next step of the project includes an intervention based on our findings. For further details contact: vlatkajurkovic@yahoo.com



Rwanda Village Concept

Reproductive Health & AIDS

The Year in Review

The Standing Committee on Reproductive Health including AIDS (SCORA) has had a very successful year. With an enthusiastic team spanning all five continents, we were able to tackle several subjects including culture, religion (with regard to the prevention of AIDS), reducing prejudice for the community of alternate sexual preferences, including transsexuals, human rights and reproductive health.



To serve our cause and underline our engagement we developed the SCORA Mission Statement, a document stating our views against stigmatisation and discrimination in all reproductive health arenas such as female genital mutilation, women rights and children's rights amongst many others.

This year was an opportunity to continue and improve international SCORA exchanges in Romania, Sweden and Poland. This program has contributed to empowering our members through peer education. This program offers the opportunity to share experiences, train, and learn about global reproductive health.

SCORA activities are local, national, regional and international. The 'AIDS sheet project' was the result of collaboration at all levels. The project consisted of 'flags' from all around the world, carrying messages of encouragement and support for our efforts. The flags were used to cover the plenary room at the March Meeting 2003 of the IFMSA and were presented at the Global Health Conference 2003.

The March Meeting was used to distribute 2000 condoms as part of the IFMSA CONDOM SURVEY, a survey used to analyse present-day medical students' sexual behaviour.

For years the SCORA has contributed to the worldwide international fight against AIDS and promotion of safe sexual health; my hope is that we have and will continue to break down barriers and further educate our peers and others!

Alia Skhiri (Tunisia), Director,
IFMSA Standing Committee on
Reproductive Health including AIDS
scorad@ifmsa.org

Projects & Activities

IgGB12 Project

The IgGB12 Project is coordinated by the

IFMSA -Spain, Spain. "Khayelihle" is a Community Care Centre, falling under the umbrella of "God's Golden Acre" and has formed partnerships with Friends of the Children, The Hillcrest Aids Centre, CINDI and Valley Trust. It is also affiliated to the South African National NGO Coalition (SANGOCO). It was started in 1995 in response to the urgent need of the children who are infected and affected by the HIV virus. The objectives of the project are not only to provide a home both for special needs children who have no relatives willing or able to care for them and for children in difficult social situations, but also to contribute to the capacity of the child headed household in impoverished rural areas, to cope, by training the older siblings life-skills which include home base care, horticulture, sewing, building skills etc. "Khayelihle" can be a temporary place of safety for the youngest siblings. The participants leave the older siblings in their homes and support them until they are self sufficient and able to cope. They support them with food and clothing on a monthly basis. Moreover project coordinators intend to provide adequate medical and terminal care to those children who need 24 hour medical care. For further information contact the coordinators: iggb12@yahoo.com



IgGB12 Project

IFMSA/UNESCO Regional Training

The IFMSA/UNESCO regional training on HIV/AIDS and human rights is run by the IFMSA Executive Board. The central aim of the project is to act against discrimination and stigma associated with HIV/AIDS affecting young people by organizing interdisciplinary regional training workshops.

The HIV/AIDS epidemic is one of the greatest challenges faced by society today, both in terms of curbing its spread, and of learning to live with HIV/AIDS in our communities. The impact of HIV/AIDS on the youth population in particular is now reaching alarming proportions: it is estimated that 40 million teenagers and adolescents will have contracted the virus by the year 2030. Already, over half of the people carrying the HIV virus are under the age of 25. It is therefore clear that the time has come for the youth to rise up and take their place at the centre of HIV action. It is imperative for youth

to become actively involved, not only in curbing the spread of the disease but also in playing a role in protecting the rights of people living with HIV or AIDS.

Motivated by these concerns, the IFMSA, in collaboration with the United Nations' Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) and the United Nations' Programme on HIV/AIDS (UNAIDS) are taking HIV/AIDS and Human Rights issues to the youth all over the world. It is hoped that this will help to combat the spread of the disease, as well as to raise awareness against socio-cultural stigma towards people living with HIV/AIDS and protect them from associated human rights violations. To this end, UNESCO, in close consultation with young people from various youth organisations, in particular with students from the IFMSA and the International Pharmaceutical Students' Federation (IPSF), have developed a kit called HIV/AIDS and Human Rights: Young People in Action". The kit was developed to aid youth organisations involved in HIV/AIDS prevention, promotion and advocacy campaigns. It is based on the international guidelines on Human Rights and HIV/AIDS and is intended to serve as a tool in the development and initiation of appropriate youth activities. At the moment the kit is available in the following languages: English, French, Spanish, Russian, Portuguese and Arabic.

In the beginning of 2002, two interdisciplinary regional training workshops on HIV/AIDS and Human Rights in the Asian and African Region were organised. The Asian regional training on HIV/AIDS and Human Rights was held in Bandung, Indonesia (21-27 January 2002) and the African regional training on HIV/AIDS and Human Rights in Cape Town South Africa (9-15 February 2002).

In 2003 three workshops took place: The Middle East regional training in Beirut, Lebanon (May 2003), the French speaking African countries in Yaounde, Cameroon (18-22 August 2003) and finally the Balkan region workshop in Bizovac, Croatia (14-22 November 2003). For more information contact: lunesco@ifmsa.org



Participants of the street action of the SCORA in Amsterdam, August 2003

Health Education Intervention in Secondary Schools

Health Education Intervention in Secondary Schools is an endorsed project organised by the Hellenic Medical Students International Committee (HelMSIC), Greece. The goals of the project are to make peers and medical students question and understand general Public Health matters, as well as to provide them with the necessary information about healthy sexual life and ways of prevention. The main aim of the project is to form a body of medical students who will be capable of organizing and taking part in interventions in the field of public health and social medicine, due their communication skills and health policies.

The program is divided into two basic subspecies. Initially, it involves briefing of the medical students who, later, will be asked to transmit whatever they will have learnt to the young pupils of high schools. Apart from the information sector that is the basic building-block of the project, during the preparation period medical students in collaboration with a psychologist, specialized in the area of health, are trained in Communication Skills. When the students' training comes to an end, the next step is visiting high schools where the students, debate with small groups of pupils of the same sex, so as to exist more discreteness and straightness in their conversation. What is more, the pupils of the high schools fill in some questionnaires so as to determine the level of their knowledge before and after their conversation with the students. For further details contact the co-ordinators: koulpet@med.auth.gr

UNESCO/IFMSA micro-funds for micro-projects on HIV/AIDS and Human Rights

At the end of the "Youth and HIV/AIDS: preventive education" day of the Youth Forum entitled "UNESCO & Youth: a reciprocal commitment" organized prior the 32nd UNESCO general conference, the IFMSA in cooperation with the United Nations' Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) ran a two hour session and announced officially the launching of the UNESCO/IFMSA micro-funds for micro-projects on HIV/AIDS and Human Rights. The aim of developing such a fund has been to have a sustainable platform to fund micro-projects worldwide. The IFMSA has already received proposals for the micro-projects fund.

Hundreds of Medical Students Urged Congress to Pass Aids Legislation

On April 7th 2003 over 200 medical and undergraduate students from over 40 states gathered on Capitol Hill, Washington DC for a Day of Education and Action on Global AIDS to urge Congress to make good on President Bush's \$15 billion funding pledge to fight the global pandemic. The students, representing

"Students Mobilizing Against the Crisis of AIDS Coalition" (SMAC AIDS Coalition), met with over 250 members of the House of Representatives and the Senate and their staff. Members of the SMAC AIDS Coalition include: Amnesty International, American Medical Students Association, International Federation of Medical Students' Associations - USA (IFMSA-USA), Physicians for Human Rights, Student Global AIDS Campaign and Student National Medical Association.

Godfrey's Children

The Godfrey's Children is an international endorsed project run by the Tanzanian Medical Students' Association (TaMSA), Tanzania in cooperation with the "Africa Bridge". The aim of the project is to help children infected and affected by HIV/AIDS.

The Education Fund created by Godfrey's Children has the purpose of assisting children orphaned by AIDS who would have no other means to attain primary education. The Fund is coordinated by Godfrey's Children but implemented through the assistance of local support. The Fund is used to pay for school fees for the year, purchase schoolbooks, school bags, stationary, shoes, and other necessities to attend school. Special attention is paid to the children who receive this financial assistance.

Godfrey's Children project has been working on planning and implementing community AIDS forums in areas heavily impacted by HIV/AIDS. The first forum was held in Idweli, Mbeya from November 7-12, 2002. The Community AIDS Forums have a mission of identifying the needs of children affected by HIV/AIDS, defining projects to meet these needs and gaining the commitment of community leaders to the implementation of the projects. For more details contact the co-ordinators: nm_70@hotmail.com

International Condom Exhibition

The International Condom Exhibition is an endorsed project run by the Taiwan Medical Students' Association (MSA), Taiwan. In May and July 2003 the 3rd International Condom Exhibition and Workshop took place. The workshop provided the opportunity for participants to acquire knowledge on AIDS so they can communicate effectively the messages of the anti-AIDS campaign of the MSA. For more information contact: wuchinglan@yahoo.com.tw

Kenya Village Project

The Kenya Village Project is coordinated by the IFMSA -USA, USA. The main objective of the project is to fight AIDS, build libraries and pre-schools, encourage micro-enterprise for women, assist the local educational system and provide health care for the people of Western Kenya.

The main area of focus since 1998 has been AIDS Education. On a shoestring

budget with no source of external funding, the team of the project has managed to sensitize over 48,000 Kenyans about the transmission and prevention of HIV/AIDS. They have constructed and opened the first public library in Western Kenya (Kabula Location). They constructed a preschool in June 2001 and established a Sponsor a Child's Education program to assist those children whose families cannot afford to send them to school. They have also organized an income-generating program for the local women. Over 2,000 women from 62 different women's groups organized into four consortia for the purpose of establishing sewing and tailoring centers during the summers of 2001 and 2002. Each consortium was given 5 sewing machines to begin their businesses. They have established a Teacher's Program that offers students and experienced teachers the opportunity to go to Kenya and teach in the local schools. Between June 10th and June 15th 2003, a group of medical students from the United States set up a temporary health clinic in the Library and managed to start medical records for 487 people and distributed 24,000 vitamins. Construction of a clinic at the same Kabula location was started simultaneously with this exercise. In June 2003 there were three Swiss medics and one Canadian medic in Kenya helping to get everything organized and starting medical records. The clinic was opened on August 13th, 2003. It is staffed by local health care professionals and workers, as well as by those volunteering from abroad. With the help of students from the USA who were in Kenya in summer 2003, the co-ordinators opened an Internet Cafe in the nearby town of Bungoma. It is the first Internet cafe in the region to have satellite connections that make email and web surfing extremely fast and reliable. The initial investment was about \$8,000 USD. After the first six months of operation, the profits are estimated to be approximately \$1500-\$2000 USD per month. These profits will be used towards sustaining and improving the existing volunteer programs. For more information contact the coordinators: hankselke@hotmail.com



The new Clinic of the Kenya Village Project

Ghana Health & Education Initiative

The Ghana Health & Education Initiative is coordinated by the IFMSA -USA, USA. Its central scope is to contribute to the eradication of diseases and traditional behaviours that scourge family structure, as well as the reproductive and public health of local residents in a village in Ghana. In the academic year 2002-03 six medics from the USA worked voluntarily in Ghana and the network of supporters in the USA was developed.

IFMSA External Relations

Official relationships of the IFMSA with the other organizations are based on health, education, science, social and humanitarian affairs. There are a number of inter-governmental and non-governmental organizations which are IFMSA partners in a fruitful and enthusiastic collaboration. With most of the partners, the collaboration is very wide and intensive, therefore it seeks special attention.

WHO

The IFMSA is an organization in official relationship with the World Health Organization.

UNICEF

The IFMSA is an organization in official relationship with the United Nations' Children's Fund.

UNFPA

The IFMSA is an organization in official relationship with the United Nations' Population Fund.

UNAIDS

The IFMSA is an organization in official relationship with the United Nations' Programme on HIV/AIDS.

UNESCO

The IFMSA is a non-governmental organization keeping operational relations with the United Nations' Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization.

UNHCR

The agreement between the IFMSA and the United Nations' High Commission for Refugees will soon be signed. The IFMSA and the UNHCR are also joint collaborators for the International Training on Refugee Health - Reaching out a Humanity Unseen which took place in Peshwar, Pakistan in August 2003.

WMA

The IFMSA is the student representation of the World Medical Association.

ECOSOC

In February 2003 the committee on non-governmental organizations of the Economic and Social Council recommended the General Assembly of the Economic and Social Council to approve that the IFMSA is upgraded from Roster category "C" Consultative Status to Special Consultative Status.

EMSA

The IFMSA is an international partner of the European Medical Students' Association.

AMSA

The IFMSA is an international partner of the Asian Medical Students' Association (AMSA). The first IFMSA Asia -Oceania Regional meeting in 2003 was held in conjunction with the AMSA in Manila, Philippines. The Regional Training Workshop on HIV and Human Rights was held in collaboration with the AMSA - Indonesia, Indonesia, in Baidung 2002 and the AMSA assisted IFMSA in recruiting participants for the event.

WFME

The IFMSA maintains representation on the Executive Council of the World Federation on Medical Education.

GHC

The IFMSA maintains representation on the Executive Council of the Global Health Council.

IPPNW

The IFMSA maintains representation on the Executive Council of the International Physicians for the Prevention of Nuclear War.

ESC

The IFMSA is an official partner of the European Students' Conference.

IAG

The IFMSA is an official partner of the International Association of Gerontology.

EYF

The IFMSA is a candidate member of the European Youth Forum and of the Youth Forum of the European Union at the Council of Members Meeting, which took place in Brussels on April 25th -26th 2003.

Stop TB

The IFMSA participates in the Stop TB Global Partnership.

AMEE

The IFMSA has applied to become a member of the Association for Medical Education in Europe.

FCA

The IFMSA is a member of the Framework Convention Alliance.

GHC

The IFMSA is a member of the Global Health Council.

NGOFH

The IFMSA is a member of the non -governmental organization Forum for Health.

TUFH

The IFMSA is a member of the Network Towards Unity for Health.

IPSF

EPSA

IADS

EDSA

The IFMSA cooperates with the International Pharmaceutical Students' Federation, with the European Pharmaceutical Students' Association, with the International Association of Dentistry Students and with the European Dentistry Students' Association in the field of publishing the new issue of the "Medical Student International", being focused on Anti -Tobacco Strategies.

AIESEC

BEST

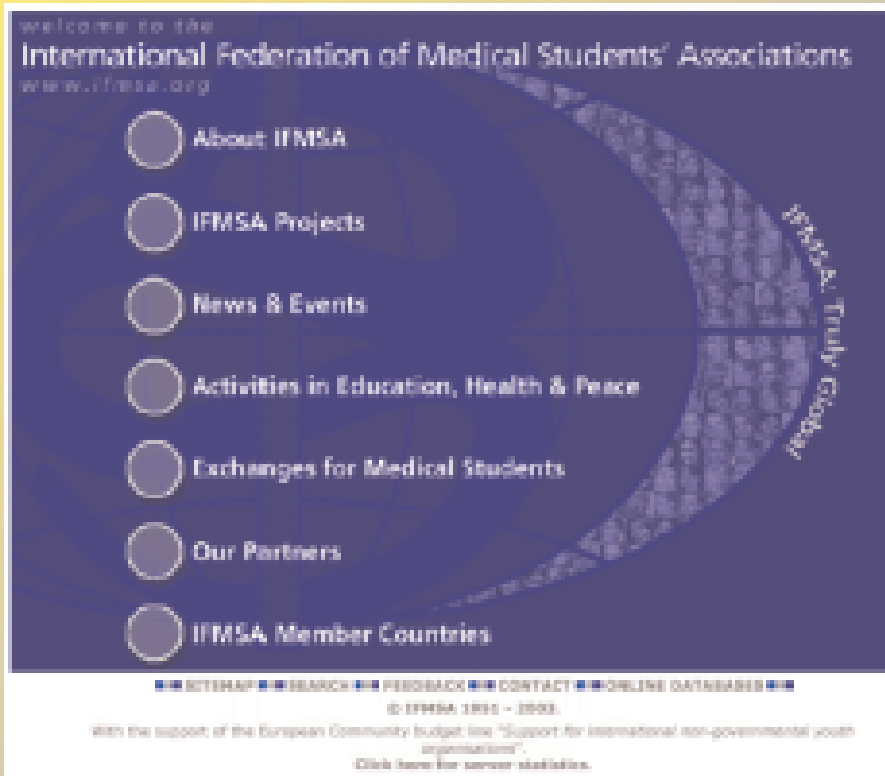
AEGEE

ESTIEM

The IFMSA cooperates with the Association Internationale des Etudiants en Sciences Economiques et Commerciales, with the Board of European Students of Technology, with the Association des Etats Generaux des Etudiants de l'Europe -European Students' Forum and with the European Students of Industrial Engineering and Management in the field of the joint application to the Leonardo funds concerning the project: "Quality Assessment Systems in Youth Student Organizations".

For further information visit
www.ifmsa.org/partners





Visit

**International
Medical Students**

at

www.ifmsa.org



The IFMSA Newsletter, nowadays called e-VAGUS, is the official news bulletin that the IFMSA produces to keep its own members updated. It is also the most efficient means

of contact with IFMSA partners, providing them with a first hand insights to the current pulse of medical students around the globe. The e-VAGUS is e-mailed to all the National Member Organisations, who distribute it to their local committees (thus reaching 900,000 medics worldwide). Past issues are downloadable from www.ifmsa.org/publications



The Medical Student International is the thematic magazine of the IFMSA. The MSI is the broadest means of expression for all IFMSA activists and medical students in the world in general. It serves to highlight specific issues of special interest to the student members of the IFMSA. Past issues can be downloaded from www.ifmsa.org/publications



IFMSA

National Member Organizations

Armenia AMSP\ Australia AMSA\ Austria AMSA\ Bosnia and Herzegovina BoHeMSA\ Brazil DENEM\ Bulgaria AMSB\ Canada IFMSA-Canada\ Costa Rica IFMSA-Costa Rica\ Croatia IFMSA-Croatia\ Czech Republic IFMSA-Cz\ Denmark IMCC\ Egypt EMSA\ Estonia EstMSA\ Finland FiMSIC\ France ANEMF\ Georgia GeoMSA\ Germany GeMSA\ Ghana FGMSA\ Greece HeMSIC\ Guatemala SAMS\ Hungary HuMSIRC\ Iceland IMSIC\ India IMSO\ Indonesia CIMSA-ISMKI\ Israel FIMS\ Italy SISM\ Jamaica UWIMSA\ Japan IFMSA-Japan\ Kuwait KuMS\ Kyrgyzstan KgMSIC\ Latvia IFMSA-Latvia\ Lebanon LeMSIC\ Lithuania LiMSA\ Malta MMSA\ Mexico IFMSA-Mexico\ Nepal NMSS\ Netherlands IFMSA-The Netherlands\ Nigeria NiMSA\ Norway IFMSA-Norway\ Pakistan IFMSA-Pakistan\ Panama PFMS\ Peru SOCEMCH\ Philippines AMSA-Philippines\ Poland IFMSA-Poland\ Portugal PorMSIC\ Republic of Moldova MSRA\ Romania IFMSA-Romani\ Russian Federation IFMSA-Russia\ Rwanda MED.S.A.-U.N.R\ Saint Kitts and Nevis IFMSA-SKN\ Serbia and Montenegro IFMSA-Serbia and Montenegro\ Slovakia SloMSA\ Slovenia SloMSIC\ South Africa SAMSA\ Spain IFMSA-Spain\ Sudan SMSA\ Sweden IFMSA-Sweden\ Switzerland IFMSA-Switzerland\ Taiwan MSA-Taiwan\ The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia MMSA-Macedonia\ Trinidad and Tobago TTMSA\ Tunisia ASSOCIA-MED\ Turkey TurkMSIC\ United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland MedSIN-UK\ United Republic of Tanzania TaMSA-Tanzania\ United States of America IFMSA-USA\ Uzbekistan UZMSA\ Venezuela SOCIVEM\ Zimbabwe ZMSA\ Albania Galen\ Algeria Le SOUK\ Belize IFMSA-Belize\ Benin AEMS\ Bolivia SCECSUV\ Cameroon FOSCA\ Central African Republic FHSSA\ Chile IFMSA-Chile\ China ICCSA\ Colombia ASCEM-COL\ Cote d'Ivoire SYNESS\ Democratic Republic of the Congo COMSA\ El Salvador SOMS\ Gabon CADUCEE\ Iran (Islamic Republic of) IMSA\ Libyan Arab Jamahiriya LMSA\ Malaysia MMSC\ Niger AJND\ Thailand IFMSA-Thailand\ Ukraine IFMSA-Ukraine\ United Arab Emirates MSAUAE\ Bosnia and Herzegovina -Rep. of Srpska SaMSIC\ Brazil IFLMS\ Luxembourg ALEM\ Maldives MMSA\ Palestine PMSS\ Spain-Catalonia AECS\ Tatarstan-Russia TaMSA-Tatarstan

Truly Global

The International Federation of Medical Students' Associations

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